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APPLICATION NO.	FILED DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/422,498	10/21/1999	C. DAVID YOUNG	98CR095/KE	5622
7590	11/10/2003		EXAMINER	
			HYUN, SOON D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2663	(O)
DATE MAILED: 11/10/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/422,498	YOUNG ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Soon-Dong Hyun	2663		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5,7-10 and 12-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 23 and 24 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,4,5,7,8,10,12,14,15,18,21,22 and 25-27 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2,3,9,13,16,17,19 and 20 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 25, line 9, it is not clear what is meant by "said second node means is pre-assigned a time slot."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crisler et al (U.S Patent No. 5,594,738).

Regarding claim 1, 4, 7, 10, 14, 18, and 25, Crisler et al discloses a method and a system of managing communication between nodes of a network (improved reservation ALOHA protocol), involving both dynamic and static assignment of communication time slots:

establishing a network comprising a plurality of dynamic nodes (communication units 102 transmitting a reservation request), network communication being accomplished via assignment of time slots of a time multiplex structure (FIG. 5), the plurality of dynamic nodes participating in a dynamic assignment protocol (contention protocol for reservation request), each of the plurality of dynamic nodes being capable of assigning itself a time slot from available time slots of said time multiplex structure (see col. 9, lines 18-21), the network further comprising at least one static node (communication unit 102 which is allocated time slots A2 in FIG. 5 by a time slot allocator 101) not participating in the dynamic assignment protocol; and pre-assigning a time slot (A2) in said time multiplex structure to the at least one static node. See col. 9, lines 12- 38.

Regarding claims 5, 12, 21, 22, and 26, Crisler et al further discloses that the at least one static node is not capable of participating in the dynamic assignment protocol, i.e., a communication unit with allocated time slots is not capable of transmitting reservation request until the allocated time slots are expired, even though it has means for participating in the dynamic assignment protocol, see col. 9, lines 39-40.

Regarding claims 8 and 15, Crisler et al further discloses an uplink channel 106 and a downlink channel 113, i.e., comprising a frequency division multiple access protocol operating in conjunction with said time multiplex structure.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 23 and 24 are allowed.
7. Claims 2, 3; 9, 13, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
8. Claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Soon-Dong Hyun whose telephone number is (703) 305-4550. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chau Nguyen, can be reached on (703) 308-5340.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

10. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

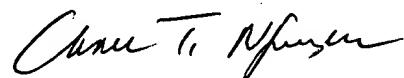
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Or faxed to: 703-872-9306 for formal communications intended for entry with a label of "OFFICIAL" and for informal or draft communications with a label of "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" (attn: Art Unit 2663, Soon-Dong Hyun).

S. Hyun

10/29/2003



CHAU NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600